

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-47 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-47 are subject to the restriction and/or election requirement.

RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

The Office Action indicates that restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. §121. Specifically, the Office Action indicates that claims 1-33 are drawn to a separator plate classified in class 429, subclass 34. Claims 34-47 are drawn to a method of making a separator plate classified in class 29, subclass 623.1+. The Office Action further indicates that the inventions are distinct.

Applicant elects with traverse claims 1-33 drawn to a separator plate.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the restriction requirement. Applicant contends that while the claims of the present invention may arguably be properly classified as proposed by the Office Action the actual search required to be conducted by the Examiner with respect to any one of the particular inventions will, in all probability, entail searching in multiple classes and multiple subclasses that encompass, or that at least overlap, with respect to all of the inventions identified by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicant submits that the search required to concurrently examine all of the claims of the instant application will not be unduly burdensome. Accordingly, pursuant to MPEP §803, even though the claims are directed to independent or distinct inventions, they should be examined together since this can be done without serious burden.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement. Applicant submits that the restriction raised by the Office Action has been successfully traversed. Applicant further requests consideration of all the claims in the instant

US Serial No. 10/603,684

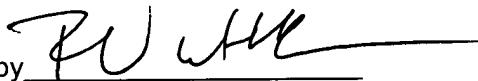
Attorney Docket No. GP-302186

Response to Office Action mailed December 28, 2005

Response to Restriction Requirement dated January 27, 2006

application and favorable response is earnestly solicited. In the interest of expediting the prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's undersigned counsel at 248-364-4300, if any unresolved matters remain. Any needed extension of time is hereby requested with the filing of this document. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 07-0960 (General Motors Corporation). A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: January 27, 2006